

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolation mechanism for a boomed apparatus, wherein the boomed apparatus includes a movable boom and a control assembly comprising substantially electrically conductive control valves located at a general distal end of the boom, the isolation mechanism comprising:

a substantially electrically non-conductive control handle ~~which is~~ actuatable by a worker to provide a control input; and

~~a linkage including a substantially electrically non-conductive material and operable to couple the control handle with the control assembly so as to communicate the control input therebetween, thereby providing a dielectric gap between the control handle and the movable boom to substantially electrically isolate the control handle from the control assembly and the movable boom~~

a linkage configured for positioning proximate to the distal end of the boom and substantially external to the boom, the linkage operable to couple the control handle with the control assembly so as to communicate the control input therebetween, the linkage further including a substantially electrically non-conductive material, such that the structural combination of the linkage being external to the boom and including the substantially electrically non-conductive material results in the linkage providing a dielectric gap between the control handle and the movable boom to substantially electrically isolate the control handle from the control assembly and the movable boom to thereby prevent bodily injury to the worker.

2. (Previously Presented) The isolation mechanism as set forth in claim 1, wherein the substantially electrically non-conductive material is selected from the group consisting of: plastic, fiberglass, nylon, rubber, and carbon fiber.

3-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) An isolation mechanism for a boomed apparatus, wherein the boomed apparatus includes a movable boom and a control assembly ~~positioned in proximity to a first end of the boom~~, the isolation mechanism comprising:

- a substantially electrically non-conductive control handle, positioned in proximity to ~~[[the]]~~
 - a first end of the boom, which is actuatable by a worker to provide a control input;
 - and
- a linkage including a substantially non-conductive material, the linkage configured for positioning proximate to the first end of the boom and substantially external to the boom and operable to couple the control handle with the control assembly so as to communicate the control input therebetween, thereby providing a dielectric gap between the control handle and the boom to substantially electrically isolate the control handle from the control assembly and the boom to thereby prevent bodily injury to the worker.

18. (Previously Presented) The isolation mechanism as set forth in claim 17, wherein the control handle includes a substantially electrically non-conductive material.

19. (Previously Presented) The isolation mechanism as set forth in claim 17, wherein the substantially electrically non-conductive material is selected from the group consisting of: plastic, fiberglass, nylon, rubber, and carbon fiber.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) An isolation mechanism for a boomed apparatus comprising a movable boom and a control assembly, the isolation mechanism comprising:

means for providing control input to the boom; and

means for producing a dielectric gap between the control handle and the movable boom to substantially electrically isolate the control handle from the movable boom to thereby prevent bodily injury to the worker.